

## 7. NEW RECORD OF *BRACHYSAURA MINOR* (HARDWICKE AND GRAY), AN AGAMID LIZARD FROM ORISSA, INDIA

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During the faunistic survey, in and around the Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary of Orissa, in February, 2009, one dead specimen of *Brachysaura minor* (Hardwicke and Gray) was collected and three others were observed. According to Smith (1935), Sharma (2002) and Das (2002), *B. minor* has hitherto not been recorded from eastern India. Since, compilation of a detailed report will take some time, it was considered desirable to record the extension of the distributional range of the species to eastern India up to Orissa.

**Material:** 1 (Juvenile); Loc. c. 200 m south to Bhurbhura nallah, Labangi, district Angul, Orissa; 21.ii. 2009; Coll. R. Chakraborty. ZSI Registration No. 25833.

**Diagnostic Characters:** Body feebly depressed, stout, head large; nostrils situated below the canthus rostralis; snout equal or slightly longer than orbit; scales keeled, dorsal ones larger than ventrals; nuchal and dorsal crests are present but not well-developed; two sets of spines above the small tympanum; throat fold present; 11-15 upper and as many lower labials; 48-58 scales round the middle of the body; gular scales either equal or larger than the ventrals; limbs and digits short; tail covered with keeled scales; standard length 53-90 mm; tail not longer than head and body, rounded, slightly compressed, not annulated.

**Colour:** Dorsal olive-brown, with three rows of dark-brown, light-edged spots on the back and base of the tail; the spots of the middle row are most prominent and rhomboidal; a white stripe on sides of nape, an oblique yellowish stripe from the eye to the angle of the mouth; limbs with dark-brown cross-bars; throat profusely spotted with grey; belly whitish yellow. The juveniles are olive or pinkish brown in colour with dark brown band between eyes.

**Habit and Habitat:** Terrestrial, crepuscular and nocturnal; in the daytime hides in burrows, usually of rats; sluggish, prefers to rest on stone but can climb up to a metre on vegetation; inhabitants of scrub forest and plains; diet comprises of seeds, insects, and spiders.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Presently known from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, western Uttar Pradesh. **Extralimital:** Pakistan.

**Status:** Vulnerable (Tikader and Sharma 1992); nothing is mentioned by IUCN (2007).

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## 8. OBSERVATIONS ON UNUSUAL FORAGING BEHAVIOUR OF *ACANTHODACTYLUS CANTORIS* GÜNTHER, 1864, IN WESTERN KACHCHH, GUJARAT, INDIA

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Survival and reproduction of a species depends on its ability to successfully find and capture the resources on which it lives. Successful foraging behaviour is assumed to be adaptive

as it increases survival and reproduction of animals. In lizards, foraging behaviour is studied by various workers (Pianka 1966; Schoener 1971; Huey and Pianka 1981; Regal 1983; Cooper